



STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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J.B. PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

STEPHEN CURDA
DIRECTOR

The safety and health of our residents and staff is the highest priority for the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. To ensure that you are fully informed, I'm writing to provide information about a recent case of Legionellosis at the Manteno Veterans' Home.

On January 8, 2019, a sole case of Legionellosis was detected in a resident who lived at the Manteno Veterans' Home.

At the time of the diagnosis, we immediately put protocols into place out of an abundance of caution, including installing filters on all showerheads, conducting additional wellness checks on residents, conducting thermal eradication of our water, and increased flushing of the water system. Engineers also conducted additional testing of the water to determine whether there was a "false positive" or whether other locations in the facility had been impacted.

On January 22, 2019, the Manteno Veterans' Home received our first preliminary water sample test results. These results showed low levels of Legionellosis at three fixtures: a faucet, a sink, and a shower. These three water fixtures were immediately taken out of service. To confirm these test results, the facility will undergo additional testing on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Results for the second round of tests are expected on February 1, 2019 and we will promptly communicate those results to you and your family.

Through this period, we will support the care of residents and staff with filtered and bottled water. Bottled water and fresh ice are being delivered to the home for drinking and preparing meals. Filters in showers will remain in place until Legionella-free water test results are received. IDVA will continue increased resident vital sign checks. Legionella bacteria exist in most public places, and test results can vary day by day, which is why we will continue testing and keeping rigorous protocols in place to protect the health and safety of our residents and employees.

We will continue to inform you of developments moving forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tanya Huston, Manteno Home Administrator at (815) 468-6581, ext. 220. The State of Illinois will take every precaution necessary to protect our residents, staff, and visitors at the Illinois Veterans' Home in Manteno.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Curda".

Brig Gen (R) Stephen Curda, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA)